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GENERAL

CIA/S

1. Analysis of Soviet attitude at CFM meeting--US Embassy Moscow, in commenting on the line taken by the USSR at the Paris meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, expresses the view that some basic change may have taken place in the Soviet attitude not long before the meeting. Pointing to Vishinsky's "defensive attitude and apparent improvisation," as well as his failure to build up a consistent propaganda pattern, the Embassy suggests as possible explanation the impact upon the USSR of the May elections in Soviet Zone Germany, combined with recent indications in the Satellites of difficulties and weaknesses. The Embassy reasons that because of these evidences of weakness, the Kremlin found it inadvisable to permit any real progress toward a German settlement and will probably place obstacles in the way of further progress on the Austrian treaty unless the USSR is successful in tightening its control in the Satellites and the Soviet occupation zones. The Embassy explains that although any "last minute shift" in Soviet tactics can be accounted for by this analysis, the willingness of the USSR to mark time at present probably is based more fundamentally on the Kremlin estimate that a crisis of capitalism is approaching much faster than previously anticipated.

(CIA Comment: CIA concurs in this analysis.)

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